AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-39. (Canceled).

40. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4 (~~SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~;

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4 (~~SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3 (~~SEQ ID NO:8~~);~~

(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3 (~~SEQ ID NO:8~~);~~ or

(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203406;

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce c-fos expression.

41. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 85% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4 (~~SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~;

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4 (~~SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3 (~~SEQ ID NO:8~~);~~

(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3 (~~SEQ ID NO:8~~);~~ or

(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203406;

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce c-fos expression.

42. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4~~ (SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~;

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4~~ (SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3~~ (SEQ ID NO:8~~);~~

(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3~~ (SEQ ID NO:8~~);~~ or

(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203406;

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce c-fos expression

43. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 95% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4~~ (SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~;

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4~~ (SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3~~ (SEQ ID NO:8~~);~~

(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3~~ (SEQ ID NO:8~~);~~ or

(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203406;

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce c-fos expression.

44. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 99% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4~~ (SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~;

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4~~ (SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3~~ (SEQ ID NO:8~~);~~

(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3~~ (SEQ ID NO:8~~);~~ or

(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203406;

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce c-fos expression.

45. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4~~ (SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~;

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4~~ (SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3~~ (SEQ ID NO:8~~);~~

(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3~~ (SEQ ID NO:8~~);~~ or

(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203406.

46. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 45 comprising the nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~shown in Figure 4~~ (SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~.

47. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 45 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 4~~ of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:9~~)~~ lacking its associated signal peptide.

48-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 45 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3 (~~SEQ ID NO:8~~)~~.

51. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 45 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~shown in Figure 3 (~~SEQ ID NO:8~~)~~.

52. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claims 45 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203406.

53-55. (Canceled).

56. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 40.

57. (Original) The vector of Claim 56, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

58. (Previously Presented) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 56.

59. (Previously Presented) The host cell of Claim 58, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an E. coli or a yeast cell.

60. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of an at least 30 nucleotide fragment of SEQ ID NO:8 or a complement thereof, that specifically hybridizes under stringent conditions to:

(a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 or a complement thereof;

(b) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203406 or a complement thereof;

wherein said stringent conditions use 50% formamide, 5 x SSC (0.75 M NaCl, 0.075 M sodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5 x Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon sperm DNA (50 μg/ml), 0.1% SDS, and 10% dextran sulfate at 42°C, with washes at 42°C in 0.2 x SSC (sodium chloride/sodium citrate) and 50% formamide at 55°C, followed by a high-stringency wash consisting of 0.1 x SSC containing EDTA at 55°C;

and wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is suitable for use as a primer or a probe.

61. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 which is at least about 50 nucleotides in length.

62. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 which is at least about 75 nucleotides in length.

63. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 which is at least about 100 nucleotides in length.

64. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 which is at least about 150 nucleotides in length.

65. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 which is at least about 200 nucleotides in length.

66. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 which is at least about 250 nucleotides in length.

67. (New) An isolated nucleic acid having at least 95% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8;

(b) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8; or

(c) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203406;

wherein said isolated nucleic acid hybridizes to the complement of a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 8 under conditions of 50% formamide, 5 x SSC (0.75 M NaCl, 0.075 M sodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5 x Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon sperm DNA (50 μg/ml), 0.1% SDS, and 10% dextran sulfate at 42°C, with washes at 42°C in 0.2 x SSC (sodium chloride/sodium citrate) and 50% formamide at 55°C, followed by a high-stringency wash consisting of 0.1 x SSC containing EDTA at 55°C.

68. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 67 having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8;

(b) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8; or

(c) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203406;

wherein said isolated nucleic acid hybridizes to the complement of a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:8 under conditions of 50% formamide, 5 x SSC (0.75 M NaCl, 0.075 M sodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5 x Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon sperm DNA (50 μg/ml), 0.1% SDS, and 10% dextran sulfate at 42°C, with washes at 42°C in 0.2 x SSC (sodium chloride/sodium citrate) and 50% formamide at 55°C, followed by a high-stringency wash consisting of 0.1 x SSC containing EDTA at 55°C.

69. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 67.

70. (New) The vector of Claim 69, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

71. (New) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 69.

72. (New) The host cell of Claim 71, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an E. coli or a yeast cell.